

**CLAIMS**

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1        1. A Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate  
2        requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces  
3        the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers  
4        comprising the steps of:  
5                accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT)  
6        application;  
7                prompting a user through a series of screens to enter a Statement of  
8        Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical  
9        skills requested;  
10               submitting the request to contracted suppliers by e-mail notification  
11        notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA  
12        application for them to review and submit a candidate against;  
13               receiving from a supplier a candidate or candidates with appended  
14        resumes as appropriate; and  
15               displaying for the user the supplier responses and associated resumes.
- 1        2. The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, wherein the SMA and  
2        REQ/CAT applications are Web-based and an SMA Web site is provided for  
3        suppliers to access to view request details and submit a candidate or  
4        candidates.
- 1        3. The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2        responding to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an  
3        approval and procurement process.

1 4. A Web-based Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to  
2 communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that  
3 significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests  
4 sent to suppliers comprising the steps of:

5 accessing the SMA from a Web-based Requisition/Catalog  
6 (REQ/CAT) Web application;

7 selecting by a user who needs to request a technical contractor a SMA  
8 Web site;

9 prompting the user through a series of screens in the SMA Web site to  
10 enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for  
11 each of the technical skills requested;

12 submitting the request to contracted suppliers who are sent an e-mail  
13 notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the  
14 SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate against;

15 accessing the SMA Web site database by a supplier to view the request  
16 details;

17 providing by a supplier a candidate or candidates by accessing the  
18 SMA Web site and submitting candidates and appending resumes as  
19 appropriate; and

20 viewing by the user the supplier responses and associated resumes and  
21 either accepting or rejecting each candidate submitted.

1 5. A computer system running Skills Matching Application (SMA) which  
2 allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a  
3 way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of  
4 requests sent to suppliers comprising:

5 means for accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT)  
6 application also running on the computer system;

7 a display system for prompting a user through a series of screens to  
8 enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for  
9 each of the technical skills requested;

10 transmitting means for submitting the request to contracted suppliers  
11 by e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been  
12 entered into the SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate  
13 against; and

14 receiving means for receiving from a supplier a candidate or  
15 candidates with appended resumes as appropriate, said display system  
16 displaying for the user the supplier responses and associated resumes.

1 6. The computer system of claim 5, wherein the SMA and REQ/CAT  
2 applications are Web-based and an SMA Web site running on the computer  
3 system is provided for suppliers to access to view request details and submit a  
4 candidate or candidates.

1 7. The computer system of claim 5, further comprising means for responding  
2 to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an approval and  
3 procurement process running on said computer system.